Message Text

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ACTION AGR-20

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 AID-20 CEA-02 CIAE-00 COME-00

EB-11 EA-11 FRB-02 INR-10 IO-12 NEA-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01

OPIC-12 TRSE-00 CIEP-02 LAB-06 SIL-01 OMB-01 DODE-00

PA-03 USIA-12 PRS-01 SS-15 NSC-10 RSR-01 /189 W

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PASS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

E. O. 11652: N/ A TAGS: EAGR: GW

SUBJECT: GERMAN PRESS COMMENTS REGARDING SECRETARY BUTZ' STATEMENTS IN PARIS

- 1. FRG PRESS REPORTS OF OECD MEETINGS AND SECRETARY BUTZ' PRESS CONFERENCE IN PARIS WERE CLOSE TO THE LINE OF PARIS RELEASES AND THUS FAR THERE HAS BEEN NO SIGNIFICANT EDITORIAL COMMENT.
- 2. THE HANDELSBLATT OF 13 APRIL HEADLINED ITS ARTICLE ON THE OECD MEETING WITH "SHARP CRITICISM BY THE UNITED STATES ON THE COMMON AGRICULTURAL MARKET" AND SUMMARIZED THE MEETING AS FOLLOWS: "THE DANGER EXISTS, IN CASE THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY IS NOT READY TO OPEN ITS AGRICULTURAL MARKETS, THAT THE AMERICAN MARKET FOR INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTS WILL BE CLOSED. THIS CLEAR ALTERNATIVE WAS FORMULATED BY THE AMERICAN AGRICULTURAL MINISTER, EARL BUTZ, AT THE CONFERENCE IN PARIS OF AGRICULTURAL MINISTERS OF THE 23 MEMBERS STATES OF THE ORGANIZATION FOR ECONOMIC COOPERATION AND DEVELOPMENT." THE ARTICLE WENT ON TO REPORT SECRETARY BUTZ AS STATING THAT "... HIS GOVERNMENT WOULD NOT PERMIT SEPARATE NEGOTIATIONS FOR AGRICULTURE." ACCORDING TO BUTZ, AGRICULTURE SHOULD BE INCLUDED IN THE NEGOTIATIONS OF OTHER ECONOMIC SECTORS AND "... NATIONS WHICH SEEK TO FURTHER EXPAND INDUSUNCLASSIFIED

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TRIAL MARKETS, WOULD HAVE TO NEGOTIATE THE OPENING OF AGRICULTURAL MARKETS."

3. THE MUENCHNER MERKUR HEADLINED ITS ARTICLE "U.S. ATTACKE EUROPE'S AGRICULTURAL PROTECTION" AND LED OFF WITH THE SENTENCE "A CLEAR CONFRONTATION BETWEEN EUROPEAN AND AMERICAN AGRICULTURAL INTERESTS CAME OUT OF THE AGRICULTURAL OECD MINISTERS' CONFERENCE IN PARIS." THE ARTICLE WENT ON TO SAY THAT SECRETARY BUTZ CHALLENGED EUROPE TO LIBERALIZE TRADE IN AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS AND TO GIVE UP THE PROTECTION FOR AGRICULTURE. "THE U.S. WOULD LIKE TO KEEP EUROPE AS ONE OF ITS LARGEST MARKETS."

BONNER RUNDSCHAU PUBLISHED A PICTURE OF SECRETARY BUTZ SHOPPING IN A PARIS MEAT MARKET. THE COMMENT UNDER THE PICTURE STATED THAT LAMB CHOPS WERE DM 1.10 EACH, WHEREAS IN CONTRAST PRICES IN THE USA HAVE RUN AWAY FROM THE HOUSEWIVES.

- 5. VWD EUROPE 12 APRIL REPORTED THAT SECRETARY BUTZ AIMED " A SHARP ATTACK AT THE AGRICULTURAL POLICY OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY AND EXPLAINED THAT THE U. S. GOVERNMENT IS FIRMLY RESOLVED NOT TO PERMIT A SEPARATION OF INDUSTRIAL AND AGRICULTURAL TARIFF AND TRADE PROBLEMS IN THE UPCOMING GATT NEGOTATIONS. THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY MUST OPEN ITS AGRICULTURAL MARKETS, OTHERWISE THE UNITED STATES MARKET FOR EC INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTS COULD BE CLOSED. BUTZ ANNOUNCED THE IMMEDIATE REPLANTING OF 18 MILLION RESERVE ACRES WITH GRAINS AND SOYBEANS, WHICH WILL HELP ALLEVIATE THE PRESENT SHORTAGE OF THSES PRODUCTS."
- 6. ON 13 APRIL, VWD EUROPA ALSO CARRIED THE STATEMENT THAT THE U. S. GOVERNMENT IS AGAINST THE COMMISSION'S PROPOSALS FOR A 2.76 PERCENT AVERAGE PRICE INCREASE FOR EEC AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS. "SECRETARY BUTZ EXPLAINED THAT SUCH AN INCREASE IN THE COMMUNITY'S PRICES FOR AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS WOULD BE DISADVANTAGEOUS NOT ONLY FOR THE COMMON MARKET, BUT ALSO FOR THE COMMUNITY'S TRADE WITH THE USA." HILLENBRAND

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^{***} Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

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